

What is claimed is:

1. An apparatus for dithering pixel data, comprising:
 - a dither value generator for outputting a dither reference value in response to an N-bits pixel data and a pixel address (x, y) thereof; and
 - a dithering unit for generating an M-bits pixel data in response to the dither reference value and the N-bits pixel data; wherein the value N is greater than the value M.
2. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said dither value generator comprises:
 - a dither matrix;
 - an array index generator for generating an array index (i, j) in response to the N-bits pixel data and the pixel address (x, y) as follows: $i = (x+C) \text{ modulo } n$; $j = (y+C) \text{ modulo } n$, wherein C denotes the red, green or blue color value of the pixel to be dithered; and
 - a selecting unit for selecting the dither reference value from said dither matrix in response to the array index (i, j) generated by said array index generator.
3. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said dithering unit comprises:
 - a truncating unit for generating the M-bits pixel data by truncating the (N-M) least significant bits of the N-bits pixel data;
 - a comparing unit for outputting a comparison signal by comparing the (N-M) least significant bits of the N-bits pixel data with the dither reference value ;
 - an adder for adding the M-bits pixel data to the comparison signal, and outputting a “sum” signal and an “overflow” signal; and
 - a clamping unit for performing a clamping process on the “sum” signal in response to the “overflow” signal, and outputting the M-bits pixel data.

4. An apparatus for inversely dithering pixel data comprising:
a dither value generator for generating a (N-M) bits dither reference
value in response to a dithered M-bits pixel data and a pixel
address (x, y); and
5 an inversely dithering unit for converting the dithered M-bits pixel
data to original N-bits pixel data in response to the dither
reference value and the dithered M-bits pixel data,
wherein the value N is greater than the value M.
5. The apparatus of Claim 4, wherein said dither value generator
10 comprises:
a dither matrix;
an array index generator for generating an array index (i, j) in
response to the dithered M-bits pixel data and the pixel address
(x, y) as follows: $i = (x+C) \text{ modulo } n$; $j = (y+C) \text{ modulo } n$,
15 wherein C denotes the red, green or blue color value of the
pixel to be inversely dithered;
a selecting unit for selecting a dither reference value from said dither
matrix in response to the array index (i, j) generated by said
array index generator.
- 20 6. The apparatus of Claim 4, wherein said inversely dithering unit
comprises:
an appending unit for appending the (N-M) bits dither reference
value to the dithered M-bits pixel data and generating an N-bits
pixel data;
25 a subtracting unit for subtracting a constant value α from the output
N-bits pixel data of said appending unit and outputting a
“difference” signal and an “overflow” signal; and
a clamping unit for performing a clamping process on the
“difference” signal in response to the “overflow” signal, and
30 outputting the N-bits pixel data.

7. The apparatus of Claim 6, wherein the value of α is $2^{(N-M)/2}$.